

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5933

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CSAF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09176

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, GW, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH PROPOSAL FOR STUDY ON NATO DEFENSE
SPECIALIZATION

REF: USNATO 2836; THE HAGUE 2638

WE HAVE FOUND IN OUR INFORMAL CONTACTS THAT THE DEFENSE
MINISTRY IS GENERALLY UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE DUTCH INITIA-
TIVE CONCERNING CENTRAL SECTOR SPECIALIZATION. THE
DEFMIN IS NOT OPPOSED TO A STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITIES
OF SPECIALIZATION, BUT SERIOUSLY DOUBTS WHETHER ANY KIND
OF ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE IN THE ALLIANCE' S INTERESTS.
IN THE DEFMIN VIEW, SPECIALIZATION OF DEFENSE ASSIGNMENTS
MIGHT BE A USEFUL THEORETICAL CONCEPT, BUT IN THE CONTEXT
OF THE CURRENT WESTERN EUROPE SCENE, POLITICAL CONSIDERA-
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TIONS MAKE ROLE SPECIALIZATION IMPRACTICAL AND POSSIBLY DANGEROUS. IF, FOR INSTANCE, AN INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR A PARTICULAR ROLE OR MISSION, NATO DEFENSES COULD BE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED IF THAT NATION' DEFENSE BUDGET WERE LATER REDUCED. THE PROPORTIONATE EFFECT OF A BUDGET REDUCTION IN THE CONTEXT OF ROLE SPECIALIZATION WOULD BE FAR GREATER THAN IF A REDUCTION WERE SPREAD OVER THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF A COUNTRY' S DEFENSE FORCES.

HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC

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